

In the Claims:

1-35 cancelled.

~~36.~~¹ (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 294 of SEQ ID NO:11.

37. Cancelled

~~38.~~⁹ (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 48 to 290 of SEQ ID NO:11.

39. (Cancelled)

~~40.~~² (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim ~~36.~~¹, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 3 to 884 of SEQ ID NO:10.

41. (Cancelled)

~~42.~~¹⁰ (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim ~~38.~~⁹, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 144 to 872 of SEQ ID NO:10.

43. (Cancelled)

~~44.~~⁶ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~36.~~¹.

45. (cancelled)

~~46.~~¹⁴ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~38.~~⁹.

47. (Cancelled)

~~48.~~³ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~40.~~².

49. (Cancelled)

~~50.~~¹¹ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~42.~~¹⁰.

51. (Cancelled)

52.⁷ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 44.⁶

53. (Cancelled)

54.¹⁵ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 46.¹⁴

55. (Cancelled)

56.⁴ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 48.³

57. (Cancelled)

58.¹² (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 50.¹¹

59. (Cancelled)

60.⁸ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 52⁷ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

61. (Cancelled)

62.¹⁶ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 54.¹⁵ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

63. (Cancelled)

64.⁵ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 56.⁴ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

65. (Cancelled)

66.¹³ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 58.¹² under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

67. (Cancelled)

68.¹⁷ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11; and
- b) a fusion protein comprising the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11,

wherein said RANKL polypeptide is from a mammal.

69.¹⁸ (Previously added) A cell comprising said recombinant nucleic acid of claim 68.

70.¹⁹ (Previously added) The cell of claim 69,¹⁸ wherein said cell is:

- a) a prokaryotic cell;
- b) a eukaryotic cell;
- c) a bacterial cell;
- d) a yeast cell;
- e) an insect cell;
- f) a mammalian cell;
- g) a mouse cell; or
- h) a human cell.

71. (Previously added) A kit comprising said nucleic acid of claim 68.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Cancelled)

75.²² (Previously added) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 68,¹⁷ wherein said RANKL polypeptide is a RANKL immunogen.

76.²⁶ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 68, which exhibits 100% identity over the protein coding portion of a DNA encoding said RANKL sequence.

77.²⁸ (Previously added) A vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 68 and;
a) transcriptional regulatory sequences operably linked to said RANKL coding sequence; or
b) an origin of replication.

~~31~~
~~17~~ ~~78.~~ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim ~~68~~, wherein said nucleic acid:

- a) is from a natural source;
- b) comprises a detectable label;
- c) comprises synthetic nucleotide sequence; or
- d) comprises a full length coding sequence.

~~79.~~ (Cancelled)

~~80.~~ ~~23~~ (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~75.~~ ²²

~~81.~~ ~~21~~ (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~76.~~ ²⁴

~~82.~~ ~~29~~ (Previously added) A cell comprising said vector of claim ~~77.~~ ²⁸

~~83.~~ ~~32~~ (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~78.~~ ³¹

~~84.~~ ~~33~~ (Previously added) A kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim ~~78.~~ ³¹

~~85.~~ (Cancelled)

~~86.~~ ~~20~~ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~69~~ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~87.~~ ~~24~~ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~80.~~ ²³ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~88.~~ ~~30~~ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~82.~~ ²⁹ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~89.~~ ~~25~~ (Previously amended) A method of making a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising contacting said nucleic acid of claim ~~75.~~ ²² with a complementary nucleic acid under selective hybridization conditions at least as stringent as the conditions of hybridizing at 50°C in 5 x SSC, thereby forming said double-stranded nucleic acid.

~~90.~~ ~~34~~ (Previously added) A method of making a nucleic acid of claim ~~68~~, comprising amplifying said nucleic acid using PCR amplification methods. ¹⁷